IEG 187-70
9 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services & Support Group, NPIC

X1 ATTENTION   : [_____]

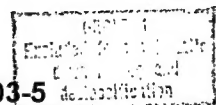SUBJECT   : Mid-70s PI workstation

1. I have re-reviewed your handouts and our discussion last week concerning the mid-70s PI workstation. I am still unable to define the problem you are addressing. In reality, you are no longer talking about a "mid-70s PI workstation" but rather about a "comprehensive systems analysis" of the intelligence process. This is good in that I see no need to devote a lot of effort and money to further development of PI stations at this time. The concepts considered for the mid-70s PI workstation are outgrowths of existing capabilities, procedures and techniques. These will evolve as dictated by changing requirements and working experience with the existing equipment. Before we can push on we must assimilate the results of several recent development efforts, specifically the IIS, the 1540 light tables, and potentially the rear projection scan and search station. To attempt to design an integrated PI workstation utilizing essentially the same techniques as we now use, pending experience with the results of these developments, would be a waste of time and money. I believe it would result in a large, complex [_____] type equipment, rather inflexible and impracticable to use. On the other hand, refinements in equipment and capabilities will evolve through experience as they become needed.

2. The real objective of your program appears to be the old war horse "total systems analysis". The need for total systems analysis still escapes me but I must admit that like sex, you can't be against it. For it to be successful, however, it needs an objective that is very specific -- what is the system to be analyzed and what is to be optimized in this system. As you pointed out, we have undergone a number of systems analyses with varying degrees of success. Systems analysis for systems analysis sake is a waste of everyones time and money and should not be undertaken until we can define clearly the goal to be achieved.

DECLASS REVIEW by NGA/DOD

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SUBJECT: Mid-70s PI Workstation

   3.   Your message really boils down to a plea that the Center undertake
more long-range planning and recommends several ways to effect this planning
which would involve and commit Center management.   I agree the Center's long-
range planning, particularly five years and more ahead, leaves much to be
desired.   This is, however, a matter for Center management and not for con-
tractual assistance.

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                                    Chief, Imagery Exploitation Group
                                              NPIC

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